



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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June 29, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 Commerce/Justice/Science Appropriations Bill

On June 29 2007, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 Commerce/Justice/Science (CJS) appropriations bill, which includes \$2.66 billion for state and local law enforcement programs -- \$177 million above the FFY 2007 level and \$1.55 billion more than requested by the President. The Committee has not yet printed its bill text and committee report.

According to the draft language that we believe that the Committee approved, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) is funded at \$370 million in FFY 2008, which is a \$30 million reduction. This SCAAP funding level, however, is far higher than included in prior years' Senate appropriations bills. For example, the Senate funded SCAAP at \$71 million in FFY 2007 and \$170 million in FFY 2006. The Committee-approved FFY 2008 CJS appropriations bill also increases Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding by \$75 million to \$595 million in FFY 2008, and increases Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funding by \$49 million to \$80 million. The President's proposed FFY 2008 Budget would eliminate each of these programs.

There is one provision in the Senate bill which could be problematic. It would rescind \$87.5 million in unobligated balances for justice assistance administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). This would mean that FFY 2007 funding for state and local formula grant programs, such as SCAAP and JAG, could be subject to rescission (reductions) if OJP fails to award grants before the bill's enactment. SCAAP funding especially would be vulnerable to rescission because the deadline for the submission of FFY 2007 SCAAP applications is July 18, 2007, which is less than 11 weeks before the start of FFY 2008. It took OJP more than 14 months after the FFY 2006 SCAAP application deadline ended to announce FFY 2006 SCAAP grant awards. **The Washington, D.C. advocates will continue advocating for increased SCAAP funding, expediting SCAAP reimbursement of undocumented criminal alien incarceration costs, and protecting unobligated SCAAP or any other justice assistance funding which otherwise would be made available to the County from being rescinded.**

Earlier in June, the House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee approved its version of the FFY 2008 appropriations bill, but embargoed its text and other detailed information on funding levels contained in it. The House Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up its version sometime in July after the House returns from its Independence Day recess on July 10, 2007.

FFY 2007 Hospital Preparedness Grants

On June 28, 2007, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced hospital preparedness grant allotments for FFY 2007 to states, territories, and four major metropolitan areas, including Los Angeles County. The total amount of funding nationally fell from \$460.2 million in FFY 2006 to \$415.0 million in FFY 2007, in part, because HHS has set aside \$15 million for a new Healthcare Facilities Partnership Program. Under this program, HSS intends to award competitive grants, ranging from \$500,000 to \$2,500,000 to between six and 30 health care partnerships, to enhance community and hospital preparedness for public health emergencies. The County's FFY 2007 allotment is \$13,111,395, down from \$15,084,217 in the prior year.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:hg

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist